

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 11, 13 and 17-26 are pending in the Application.

Appreciation is expressed for the indicated allowability of Claims 1-6, 8, 11, 13 and 17-26.

In the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants cite to references cited during the prosecution of related U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/968,735, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,257,820 (the '820 patent). Both the '820 patent and the present Application claim priority to provisional applications filed on April 14, 2001, therefore Applicants submit that the '820 patent itself is not prior to the present Application. The references listed on the Information Disclosure Statement are being submitted for the Examiner's further consideration.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5090.

Respectfully submitted,

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